

**Minutes of the Parks & Environment Advisory Board
Meeting April 5th, 2023 at the Canale Training Center**

In attendance:

Officers Present - Stephen Fiedler, Vice-Chairperson

Members Present - Lisa March, Dick Colby, Dan Crum, Ken Sooy, Alex Perri, Emma Witt

Members Absent - Mike Hogan, Chairperson, Belinda Chester

Commissioner Representative - Andrew Parker -absent

County Staff - Greg Brookins, D.H.P.W. - present

Secretary - Eric Husta, D.D.P.R. – present

Guests- none

The meeting was called to order at 7:07 PM and a flag salute was conducted. The minutes from our March meeting were approved also.

Roundtable Discussion topics:

Dan Crum reported on a fire that burned the “Touch of Italy” restaurant in EHT. He also mentioned ticks are out and about.

Emma Witt noted only one month of classes remained at Stockton University. She also updated the group on the University’s efforts to revamp their Environmental Science and Environmental Studies curriculum. The Environmental Club is also actively looking for service projects.

Dick Colby made mention of Sustainable Egg Harbor City which is part of the larger, Sustainable New Jersey. Discussion was also had regarding the formation of a new island off the coast of Little Beach.

Lisa March reported on continued coyote activity in her area of EHT and an existing ordinance prohibiting the raising of pigs. A neighbor raises pigs so discussion ensued regarding regulations governing farming. Lisa also noted the story was being covered by regional news programs. She concluded her update noting a recent public service announcement urging residents to keep a close eye on their dogs due to the continued presence of coyotes.

Eric Husta discussed the expansion underway at Estell Manor park. He also reported river herring in the fish ladder and lake.

Greg Brookins provided a comprehensive update on the County’s Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. As a Highway Agency, the County is required to apply for this permit authorizing the discharge of stormwater from our highways. He noted that in addition to annually required data submissions there are various compliance reviews and inspections.

Ken Sooy noted the new fishing dock at Motts Creek is being used.

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Alex Perri reported on a resolution Absecon recently passed to foster the creation of a Green Team. He also reported encountering some snakes recently.

Steve Fiedler updated the group on the first Margate Cherry Blossom Festival. It was well attended and Steve Jasiocki, chairperson for Sustainable Margate, coordinated an “Environmental Row” which was well received by attendees. Discussion was had regarding methods to get more towns to form environmental commissions and become members of ANJEC. The document archives maintained by ANJEC were also a point of discussion as were the courses offered free to members.

The evening concluded with considerable discussion regarding the ACUA landfill and the current conditions, including the ever-present odor, its inevitable filling, and nearby housing issues. There was also discussion on what the group should be advising on, and focusing efforts on, including selected topics from Dick Colby’s yearly list.

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

Our next meeting is currently scheduled for Wednesday, May 3rd, 2023, at 7 PM at the Canale Training Center.

cc: Dennis Levinson, County Executive
Jerry DelRosso, County Administrator
Diana Rutala, Deputy County Administrator
John W. Risley Jr., Chairperson - Board of County Commissioners
Andrew Parker, Board of County Commissioners – PEAB Representative
Greg Brookins, Department Head Public Works
All Advisory Board Members